



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

August 22, 2000

S. 2878 **National Wildlife Refuge System Centennial Commemoration Act** **of 2000**

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works
on July 26, 2000*

S. 2878 would establish the National Wildlife Refuge System Centennial Commission to prepare and implement a plan to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the National Wildlife Refuge System in 2003. The commission also would provide services for a conference on the refuge system and assist with conference activities. This commission's members would include the Secretary of the Interior, the director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), specified Members of Congress, and others. They would receive travel expenses but no compensation for serving on the commission. The commission would be allowed to accept and use donations of money, property, or services. In addition, section 9 of the bill would require the Secretary of the Interior to prepare a long-term plan for priority operations, maintenance, and construction needs of the refuge system. Finally, section 11 would authorize the appropriation of \$0.1 million for fiscal year 2001 and \$0.25 million for each of fiscal years 2002 through 2004 for activities of the commission.

Assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts, and based on information provided by the USFWS, CBO estimates that implementing S. 2878 would cost about \$0.9 million over the next four years. Most of this amount would be spent on activities of the National Wildlife Refuge System Centennial Commission. Costs to prepare the study of priority needs required by section 11 are not expected to be significant.

Because S. 2878 would authorize the new commission to accept and spend donations, pay-as-you-go procedures would apply. CBO estimates, however, that any new governmental receipts and resulting direct spending would be insignificant and largely offsetting. The bill contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would have no significant impact on the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

On July 6, 2000, CBO submitted a cost estimate for H.R. 4442, the National Wildlife Refuge System Centennial Act, as ordered reported by the House Committee on Resources on June 29, 2000. The two bills are very similar, and the costs are identical.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Deborah Reis. This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.